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MANUFACTURING GUIDE FOR ELASTOMERIC SEALS

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Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, Illinois 61299-5000

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Final technical report for MMT Project 6828030, "Manufacturing Guide for Elastomeric Seals."



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19. ABSTRACT (continued)

For improved producibility and storage and lower cost, nylon-filled phenolic and polyester thermoplastic back-up rings were fabricated to replace the phenolic and PTFE, respectively.) The results to date are inconclusive.

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MANUFACTURING GUIDE FOR ELASTOMERIC SEALS

INTRODUCTION:

One of the objectives of this effort was to increase competition for purchasing elastomeric seals for Army weapons systems where acceptable seals were available from only one or a few vendors and were difficult to fabricate. Manufacturing data from tested formulations would be provided for vendors or U.S. Government activities. This work was also directed toward establishing Army in-house capability of manufacturing seal kits for the M140 Gun Mount. These kits consist of six elastomeric seals, four polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE) back-up rings and one cloth-filled phenolic ring. Such an in-house capability would assure a ready source of supply for seal kits to be installed in M140 and other gun mounts manufactured at Rock Island Arsenal.

ELASTOMERIC SEALS:

Elastomeric seal drawings were surveyed to determine the most needed seal materials for Army weapon systems. Drawing 8689822 was found to provide a suitable material call-out for use in many weapon systems where MIL-H-6083 hydraulic oil is used, especially for the M178 Gun Mount. The requirements of that drawing, with the exception of substituting MIL-H-46170 hydraulic oil for MIL-H-6083, were required for the seals for the M140 Gun Mount.

Drawing 8689822 cites 'Material: Rubber, Synthetic, Grade SB715A₁E₃F₂Z₁Z₂Z₃Z₄Z₆Z₆, Specification MIL-R-3065 and MIL-STD-417. The Z suffix requirements are defined as follows:

- Z₁: Original Elongation 150 percent minimum;
- Z_2 : 0 15 percent volume change after 70 hours immersion in MIL-H-6083 at 275 deg. F.:
- Z_3 : No evidence of corrosion or adhesion against steel when tested per MIL-P-5576:
- Z_4 : TRI0 value of -51 deg. F., or colder when tested at 50 percent elongation per ASTM W1329. Material shall meet TRI0 value of -51 deg. F. or colder after 70 hours heat soak in hydraulic fluid conforming to MIL-H-6083 at 70 deg. C. (158 deg. F.);
- Z_{\bullet} : Modulus at 100 percent elongation of 700 psi minimum, when tested per ASTM D412;
- Z_{\bullet} : Compression set after 70 hours at 212 deg. F. per ASTM D395, Method B performed on buttons 23 percent maximum. The complete set of requirements for Grade SB715A₁E₃F₂Z₁Z₂Z₂Z₄Z₀ are presented in Table 1.

Examination reveals this combination of requirements, e.g., high modulus, low compression set, resistance to embrittlement at low temperature, good low temperature retraction before and after being soaked in hot hydraulic oil, resistance to petroleum oil at 275 deg. F. and corrosion resistance to steel is severe and difficult to achieve by using 'off-the-shelf' nitrile seal compound. Individually, any of the requirements is not too difficult to meet, even though it approaches the best attainable. However, when compounding to reach a best attainable property for any one requirement, other properties are sacrificed, so judicial compromises must be made to attain the desired combination.

TABLE 1

PHYSICAL PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS OF GRADE SB715A₁E₃F₂Z₁Z₂Z₃Z₄Z₈Z PER DRAWING 8689822*

As received sample:	
(ASTM D 412 Method A)	***
remarks a second on the second of the second	500 min.
(A1) After 70 hrs. 0 212 deg. F. in air, ASTM D 573.	_
	0 max.
	max.
Hardness change, Shore A points. +19	5 max.
(E3) After 70 hrs. 0 212 deg. F. in ASTM #3 oil, ASTM D 471.	
Tensile change, %.	5 max.
Elongation change, %4	S max.
Hardness change, Shore A points.	Ø to
Volume change, %.	to + 25
(F2) Brittleness, deg. F., ASTM D 746, para 1.1, Note 16	7
ASTM D 2137, para 3.2.1, Method A. No	failure
(Z1) Elongation, X.	156 min.
Hardness, Shore A, ASTM D 2240.	70 + 5
•	l or below
(Z2) After 70 hrs. 0 275 deg. F. in MIL-H-6083 oil*. ASTM D 471.	
	to + 15
	ndication
	rmitted
(24) After 70 hrs. 0 158 deg. F. in MIL-H-6083 oil.*	
-	l or below
	766 min.
ran, meaning a sanii seniidanenii bae.	
(Z6) After 78 hrs. @ 212 deg. F. in air, ASTM D 395 Method B.	
Compression set, X. 23	3 max.

^{*} Other systems, e.g., the M140 Gun Mount, require substitution of MIL-H-46170 hydraulic oil.

Two nitrile rubber based compounds were developed to meet the call-out; one compound, N221, is intended for use with MIL-H-6083 hydraulic oil and the other, N220-1, for use with MIL-H-46170 (Table 2).

These compounds were mixed on a 2-roll laboratory mill measuring 6 X 12 inches. The same compounds were then mixed on a 30 X 12 inch mill used for production purposes to determine if there were any substantial differences in properties, especially stress-strain properties, between laboratory and shop mixed batches. Difference in the size of the rolls affects the mixing of the compounding ingredients into the rubber, mainly because larger rolls produce a different shearing action in the mix of rubber than do rolls of smaller diameter.

The following mixing procedure was followed in both the laboratory and shop:

- 1. Pass rubber through tight rolls without banding, three times. Do each rubber of the blend separately.
- 2. Then band both base rubbers in the formula on the slow roll of a tight cold mill. Make two 3/4 cuts from each side after 1 minute to blend the rubbers. Continue to run the banded rubber for 2 more minutes.
- 3. Add stearic acid, zinc oxide and Maglite D together evenly across the mill. Then add Vanax A, Methyl Ethyl Tuads, Durax and Age Rites. Make additions slowly without cutting the rubber until all the ingredients are incorporated. Then make three 3/4 cuts from each side.
- 4. Add half of the carbon black and half of the plasticizer evenly across the mill without cutting. When this portion of black and plasticizer is completely mixed into the rubber, open the mill to maintain a small nip. Make three 3/4 cuts from each end. Add remaining black and plasticizer evenly across the mill. When all black and plasticizer is added, make three 3/4 cuts from end to end. Cut from mill and roll the rubber.
 - 5. Pass the rolled rubber endwise through the rolls six times.
 - 6. Weigh and record weight of batch.
 - 7. Sheet out and cool on bench top.

Only fresh elastomers and curatives stored less than 6 months after receipt were used.

Standard 6 X 6 X 0.080 inch test pads were cured 30 minutes at 307 deg. F. in a steam heated press, and 0.500 inch thick compression set buttons were cured 45 minutes at 307 deg. F. in an electrically heated press.

Table 3 presents data for comparison of properties of both compounds N221 and N228-1 between those mixed and cured in the laboratory and those mixed and cured in the production rubber shop. These data show that both compounds, whether mixed in the laboratory or in the production facility, meet the physical property requirements of the specified grade. However, the modulus was measured to be lower with both compounds when mixed in the shop. Compound N221 also displayed somewhat lower tensile strength in the shop mixed batch as compared with the laboratory mix.

TABLE 2 COMPOUND FORMULATIONS

COMPOUNDING INGREDIENTS	PARTS BY	WEIGHT
	<u>N221</u>	N220-1
Chemigum N917 (rubber)	93	95
Paracril B (rubber)	7	-
Natsyn 2200	-	5
Zinc Oxide	· 5	5
Stearic Acid	1	1
Age Rite Resin D	1.5	1.5
Age Rite Superflex	1.5	1.5
Philblack N550 (carbon black)	45	45
Philblack N774 (carbon black)	76	76
Maglite D	5	5
Vanax A	1.1	1.1
Methyl Ethyl Tuads	2.3	2.3
Durax	1.75	1.75
Plasticizer TP90B	30	-
Plasticizer DOS	-	15
Plasticizer TP95	-	15
TOTAL	264.15	264.15

TABLE 3

COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF COMPOUNDS MIXED IN LABORATORY VS. RUBBER SHOP

Property Measured	Laboratory Mix N221	Rubber Shop Mix	Laboratory Mix N220-1	Rubber Shop Mix	i i
					The menu
	2,130	1,640	1.816	6 50 ~	1 000
Modulus e 186%E, psi	1.666	775	7 436		
Elongation, x	200	90.		\$ () () () () () () () () () (766 min.
Hardness, Shore A	7.4	- C	6/1	200	ă
Compression Set	7	2	ر. آ	71	70 + 5
78 brs/212 Deg. F. X	.	81	17	16	23 max.
Temperature Retraction	X	e e	1		
Unaged, TRIG, Deg. F.	3	6 6	200-	n n	-51 or below
Temperature Retraction	- 22 - 23 - 24	i S S S	i P G	;	
after aging 70 hrs/	l I	1	***************************************	# # 100	-51 or below
TRIG Deg. F.					
70 hrs/212 Deg. F./					
ASTM #3 oil					
Tensile change, x	÷	+21	2.7	•	
Elongation change, x	-10	* 6°,	7 (* (-45 max.
Hardness change/points	4-) &C	4 4	•	3
Volume change, X	+10	3 €	0 5	.	6 tc
		9	+13	+14	↓ to +25
Volume change, x	+12*	+12*	******	+4*+	6 to +15
Brittleness at -67 deg. F	F. no failure	no failure	no failure	no failure	
76 Brs./212 deg. F./Air					
Tensile change, x	+10	+21	.	•	
Elongation change, x	-30	66-	7	• •	-26 Max
Hardness change, x	+12	9 +	o e	<i>-</i> .	
corrosion on steel	none	none	anon	9404	+15 Max
					none

* MIL-H-6083 hydraulic oil ** MIL-H-46170 hydraulic oil

M140 SEAL KIT:

Figure 1 shows a cut away of the M140 gun mount with the rubber seals and rings and plastic seals that make up the kit.

Elastomeric Seals:

Six single cavity steel mold was fabricated for compression molding the six seals required for the M140 gun mounts. Pertinent drawings for these seals are 8728296, 7044081, 7044083, 8448920, 8448921 and 8449265. These seal drawings are shown in Figures 2 through 7, respectively.

M140 Polytetrafluorthylene (PTFE) Back-up Rings:

The seal kit for the M140 gun mount also requires four different sizes of PTFE back-up rings (8448919, 8449266, 8448922 and 8448915) for the elastomeric seals. Figure 8 shows the role of the back-up rings (white) with the matching elastomeric seal (black). Figure 9 shows all the matching combinations; one back-up ring is used for three different seals. These pictured back-up rings are proposed replacements for the PTFE and are discussed later. The PTFE back-up rings are manufactured by machining them from PTFE tube stock, carbon filled (amorphous) 20-25 percent by weight, graphite filled (amorphous) 0-5 percent by weight. Appropriate sizes of tube stock of this PTFE material were procured and processes were developed to turn outside and inside diameter simultaneously, cut off and debur. A cutting fixture was fabricated to slit the rings, as appropriate, at a 15 degree angle scarf.

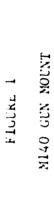
Back-up rings machined from the PTFE tube stock were measured by SMCRI-QA and were found to meet the dimensional requirements and were considered acceptable for use.

M140 Reinforced Phenolic Back-up Rings:

One cloth reinforced phenolic back-up ring (7044082) is also required for the M140 Gun Mount Kit. A blanking die was fabricated to blank out the outside and inside diameters simultaneously, and a matching die was made to separate the ring as required. The cloth reinforced phenolic sheet stock was conditioned for 24 hours at 50 ± 4 percent relative humidity at 73 ± 2 deg. F. prior to being cut. These back-up rings were found dimensionally acceptable.

Past experience has revealed that the hydroscopic nature of the cloth-filled phenolic rings presents a problem as the rings change dimensions depending on the relative humidity where these back-up rings are stored or handled during assembly. Installation of the water swollen rings becomes difficult or impossible. Therefore, nylon reinforced phenolic sheets, which are less hydroscopic, were procured for testing to ascertain the feasibility of using it as a replacement for the cloth-filled phenolic. It was intended to use the same blanking die that was previously made to cut back-up rings from the nylon filled phenolic material.

Acceptable back-up rings could not be die cut from the nylon reinforced phenolic sheet as excessing layers of nylon produced too rigid of a sheet. Edges were frayed during the blanking process, and parts meeting the dimensional requirements could not be produced.





M140 GUN MOUNT

KEYS TO FIGURE 1

Part No. 1	8728296	Rubber Ring	Qty 1
Part No. 2	8448921	Rubber Face Seal	1
	8448922	Plastic Ring	ī
Part No. 3	7044083	Rubber Ring	1
	8448915	Plastic Ring	2
Part No. 4	8448920	Rubber Face Seal	1
	8448919	Plastic Ring	1
Part No. 5	7044081	Rubber Ring	1
Part No. 6	8449265	Rubber Seal	1
	8449266	Plastic Ring	1

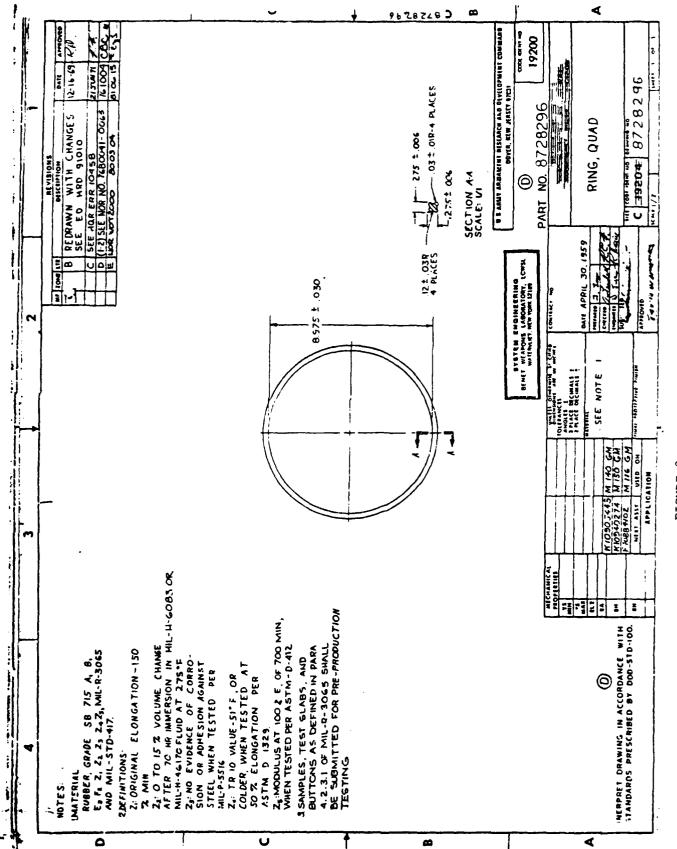
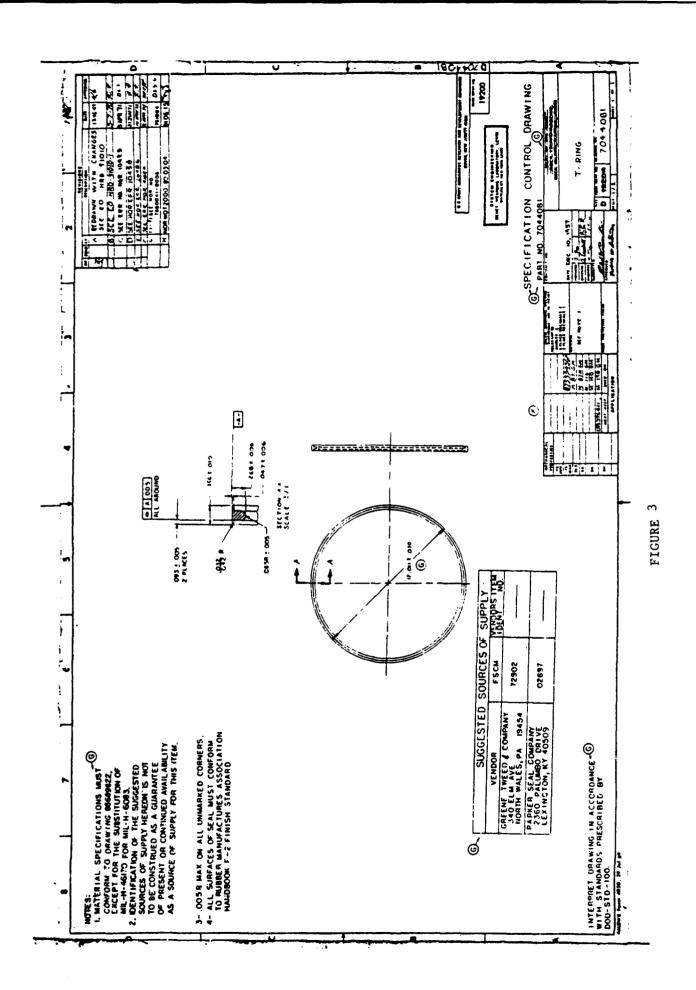


FIGURE 2



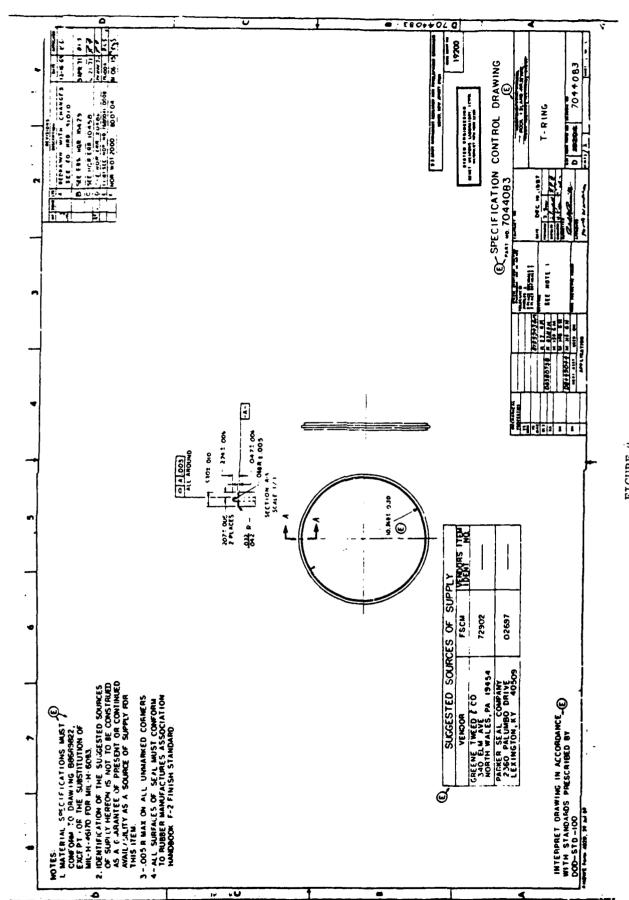
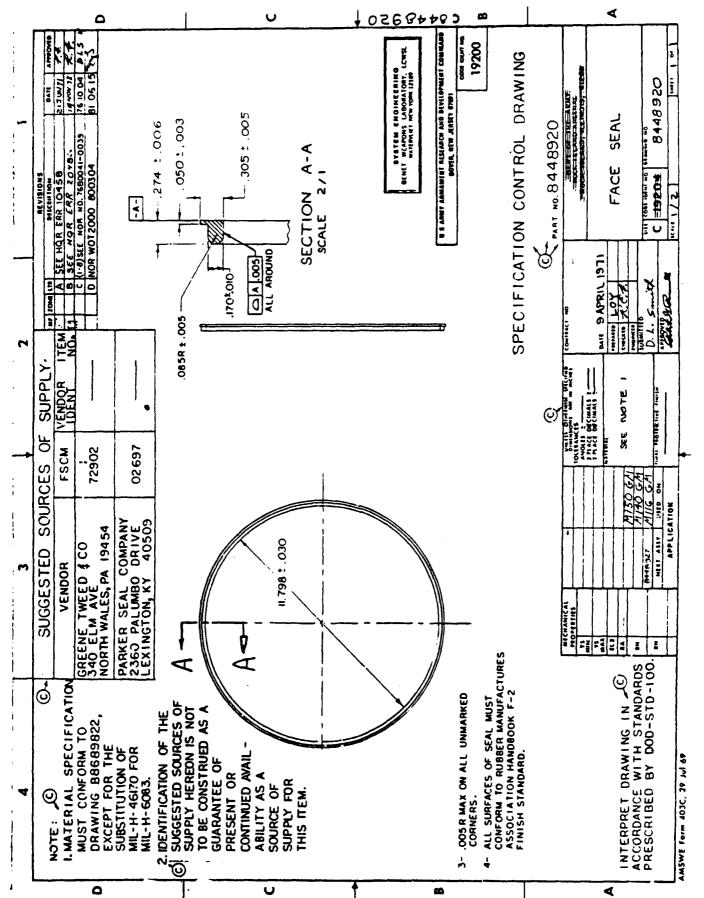


FIGURE 4



FIGURE

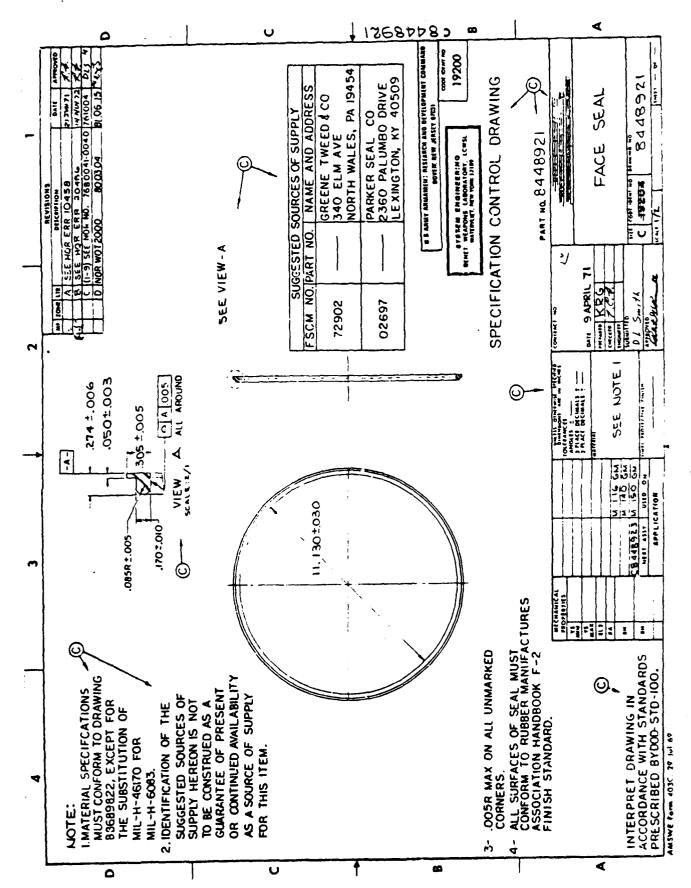
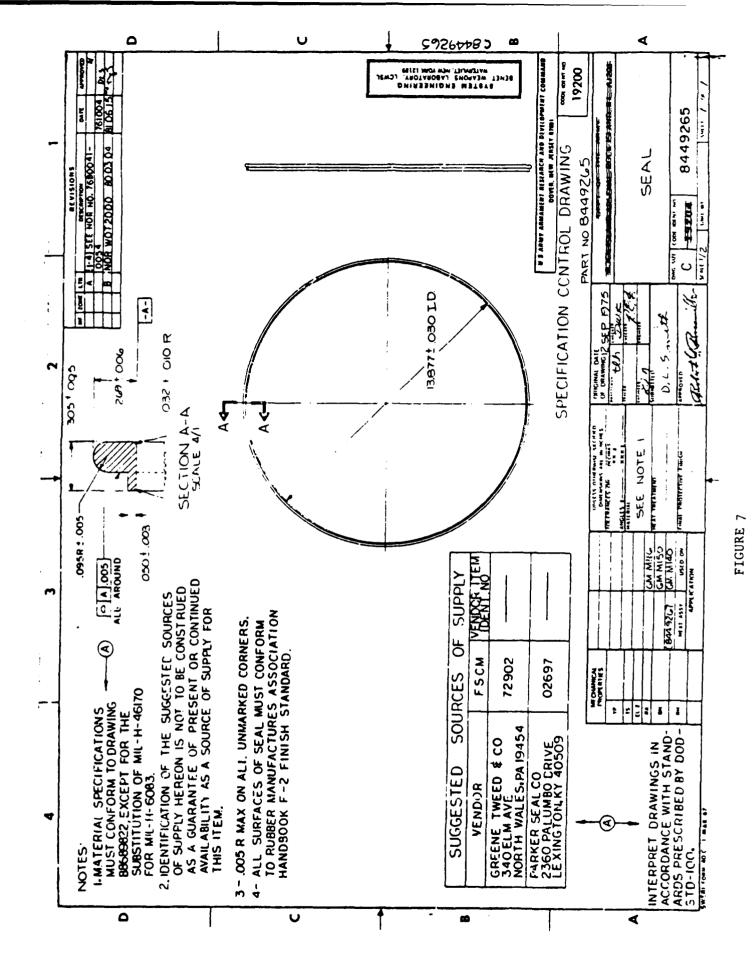
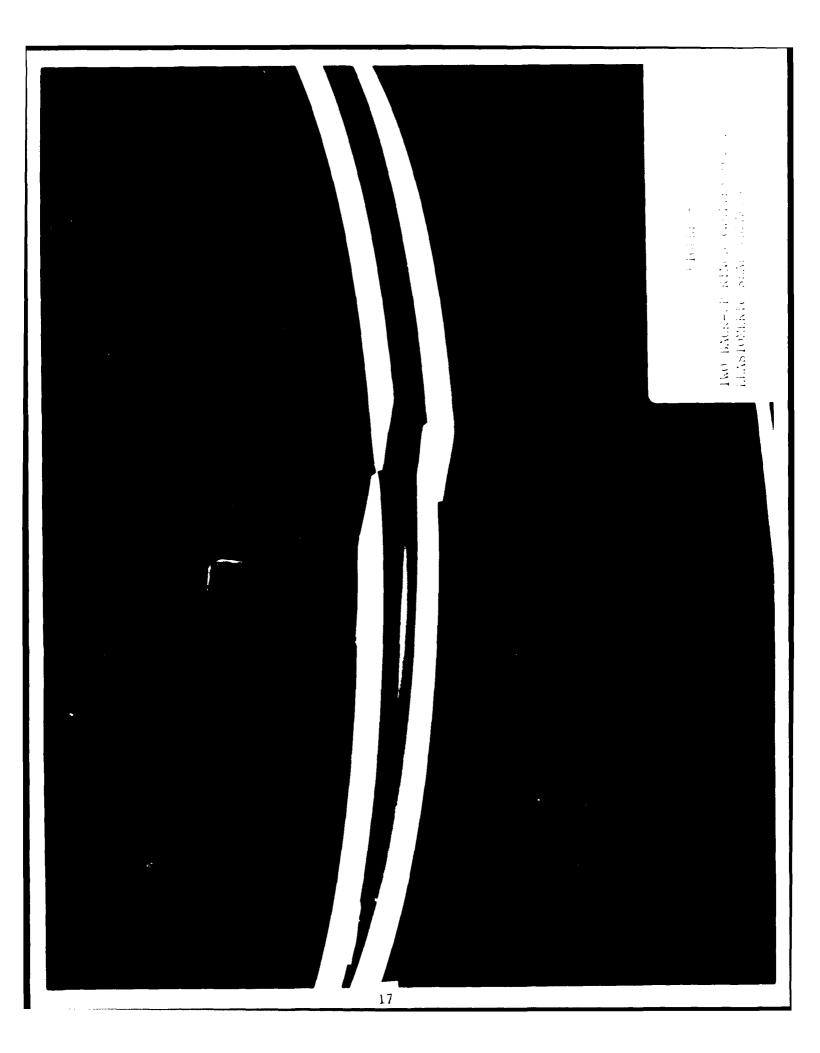
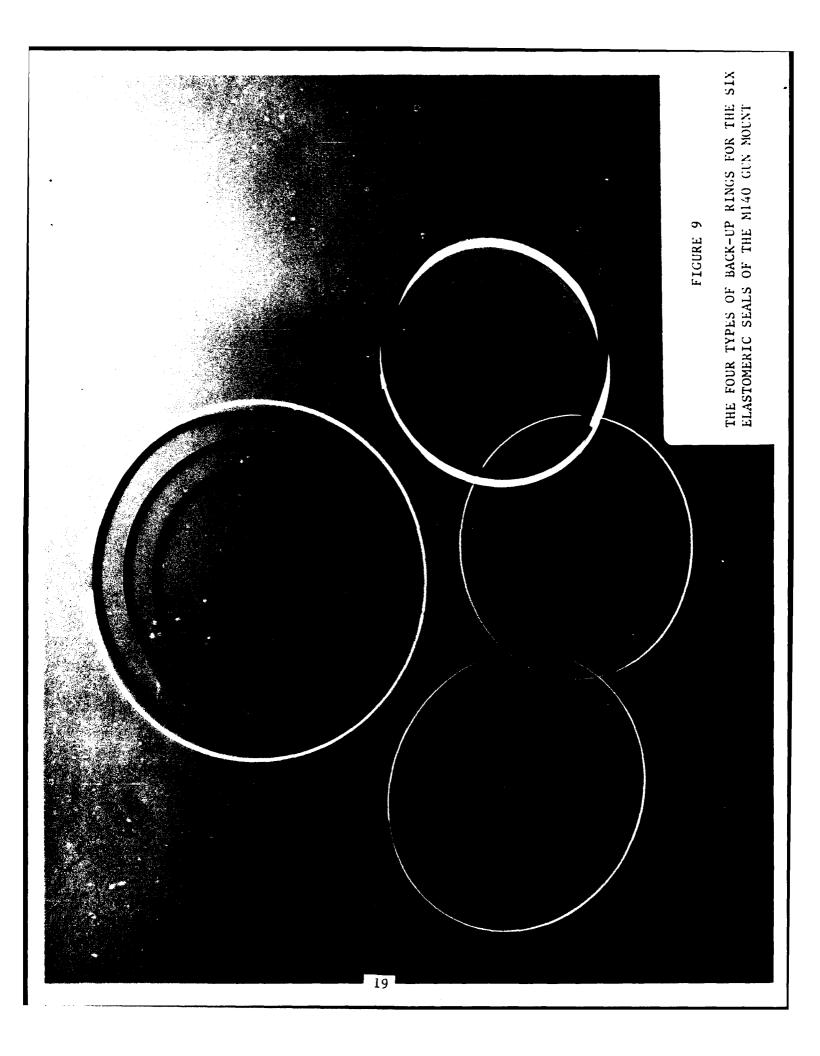


FIGURE 6







M140 Gymnastication:

The six rubber seals for the M140 Gun Mount molded from compound N220-1 were installed along with attendant commercial PTFE and cloth-filled phenolic back-up rings in an M140 Gun Mount that was exercised on a powder gymnasticator at RIA. No problems were encountered with installing the elastomeric seals in the M140 Gun Mounts. The seals were mounted in five gun mounts, and the changes in ounces were 11, 11 1/4, 11 3/4, 12 and 12 1/2. Allowable oil leakage was a maximum of 40 drops.

Gun mounts serial numbers 12307 and 12309 exceeded that limit. Disassembly and inspection of the seal systems revealed that the phenolic rings displayed excessive gaps which was attributed to the excessive leakage. The 'Weapon Firing Reports' for these gun mounts are provided in Figures 10 through 14.

Replacement of PTFE for the M140 Back-up Rings:

Current practice to fabricate the PTFE back-up rings by machining them from tube stock is not entirely satisfactory, as at times, difficulties were encountered with procurement of PTFE tube stock that could consistently meet the required physical properties, in particular the compressive strength. Furthermore, the PTFE is quite expensive, and the machining operation produces a large amount of unreclaimable scrap. The machining process is also time consuming and, therefore, costly.

Alternate materials and manufacturing techniques were studied as possible replacement of the machined PTFE. An injection moldable thermoplastic polyester material, Valox 325, was chosen as a potential replacement of the machined PTFE back-up rings. Typical physical properties of the Valox 325 material are listed in Table 4.

A contract was awarded for the fabrication of a single four cavity injection mold to produce the four different sized rings required for the kit. The four back-up rings have been molded by the contractor and are planned to be tested in conjunction with elastomeric seals in an M140 Gun Mount on the gymnasticator.

Back-up rings made by the injection molding process were not totally acceptable to drawing requirements. Surface finish did not meet the 32 RMS requirements, and concave surfaces were noted. However, polishing or other remachining of the mold could eliminate this problem. Some of the dimensions were out of tolerances. Measurement data of the plastic back-up rings is presented in Tables 5 through 8. Nonetheless, these back-up rings are satisfactory to be tested in an experimental basis in an M140 Gun Mount in a gymnasticator.

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Mount,	Gun: M1	40Al, for	M60A1/A	3, S/N <u>1</u> 2	2306		Mf		IA Chrysler	· (×)	
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SARRI TOP	114,	••	<u> </u>	Bue	cham				<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Table 4 Comparison of Valox 325 with PTFE

Property	Valox 325*	Requirements for PTFE Material
Tensile strength, psi Elongation X Flexural strength Compressive strength & 18% deflection	7,500 300 12,600 13,608	2,000 min. ** ## 1,790 min.
Shear strength Hardness, Shore D	7,7 99 65	3.666 min. 66-76

^{*} Typical value ** No requirement

TABLE 5

INSPECTION OF VALOX 325 BACK-UP RING 8449266

.005in. Radius Max	ತ ಜಹದ	ssed	pas	ssed	Beed	88 8 Q
32 RMS Max	a a a d	pass	pased	9880	pass	pass
.080008 in. Height	. 072 083	. 676 682	.067082	. 676 682	.069082	. 066 083
.178004 in. Wall Thickness	. 169 180	. 166 176	. 169 178	. 169 175	. 169 178	. 169 178
14.376002 in. Dimension	*		*	*	*	*
Piece I.D.	-	64 *	* * 10	•	ഗ	80

* Not applicable as ring was without scarf

** Reject

General notes: Excess flash on all edges. The two parallel surfaces are visually concave.

TABLE 6

INSPECTION OF PART 8448922

.005 in. RADIUS	384 0	2240	###d	pass	page	a ged
32 RMS Max	###d	pass	Bed	pard	884d	989d
.178+.004 in. Reight	.177181	. 176 181	. 176 181	. 176 181	. 176 181	. 176 186
Wall Thickness	. 683 161	.683162	. 683 162	. 683 161	. 683 161	. 683 698
11.813+.005 in. Dimension	pass	***************************************	pass	pess	8 8 8 d	***************************************
Piece I.D.		64	eo.	→	ເດ	€0

General notes: Excess flash on all edges. The two parallel surfaces are visually concave. Scratches on I.D.

TABLE 7

INSPECTION OF PART 8448919

.005 in. Radius	20 E	20 E C		897d	pass	8 8 8 Q
32 RMS	8840	pess			8 8 8 d	***************************************
.178+.664 in. Height	. 176 186	. 176 186	.176188	.176180	. 176 180	. 176 186
696+.865 in. Wall Thickness	. 684 609	. 684~. 699	. 984 999	. 884 141	. 984 192	. 684 699
12.473+.005 in. Dimension	8 9 9 d	pped	885d	***************************************	seed	Barg
Piece I.D.	~	64	ю	4	ĸ	•

General notes: Excess flash on edges. The two parallel surfaces are visually concave. Scratches on I.D.

TABLE 8

INSPECTION OF PART 8448915

.005 in. Radius Max	884 Q	888 ರ	(). 88	3 3 3 3 4	3 2 3 C	288Q
32 RMS Max	pass	pass	588 0	pass	20 a	8880
.162008 in. Height	. 154 168	. 153 166	. 154 171	.152167	.151167	. 154 167
.182005 in. Wall Thickness	. 177 183	. 178 183	. 177 183	. 177 182	. 178 183	. 178 184
10.878002 in. Dimension	•	•	*	*	æ	•
Piece I.D.	-	м	ED)	→	K O	60

* Not applicable as ring was without scarf.

General notes: Step on parallel surfaces. Excess flash on edges.

CONCLUSIONS:

Rubber compounds are available that meet the property requirements of material drawing 8689822 or of drawings differing only by the substitution of MIL-H-46170 hydraulic oil for MIL-H-6083.

RIA has the in-house capability to fabricate elastomeric seals, PTFE and cloth-filled phenolic back-up rings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Attempts should be made to formulate a single compound suitable for use in both MIL-H-6083 and MIL-H-46170.

Other materials should be sought for replacement of the cloth-filled phenolic back-up rings.

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Elastomeric seals used in gun mounts have a hard to achieve combination of properties, so acceptable seals are difficult to procure and few sources are available. Therefore, two rubber formulations were developed, each for a different hydraulic oil, with the intention of providing the manufacturing data to U.S. Government activities and potential vendors.	DISTRIBUTION Copies Available From DTIC	Elastomeric seals used in gun mounts have a hard to achieve combination of properties, so acceptable seals are difficult to procure and few sources are available. Therefore, two rubber formulations were developed, each for a different hydraulic oil, with the intention of providing the manufacturing data to U.S. Government activities and potential vendors.	DISTRIBUTION Copies Available From DTIC
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As in-house Army fabrication capability is needed for the seal kit for the M140 gun mount, polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE) tubes and cloth-filled phenolic sheet were procured for back-up rings in the kit. Subsequent gymnastication demonstrated Rock Island Arsenal has the capability of fabricating all the seals in the kit according to the technical data.

For improved producibility and storage and lower cost, nylon-filled phenolic and polyester thermoplastic back-up rings were fabricated to replace the phenolic and PTFE, respectively. The results to date are inconclusive.

As in-house Army fabrication capability is needed for the seal kit for the Mi40 gun mount, polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE) tubes and cloth-filled phenolic sheet were procured for back-up rings in the kit. Subsequent symmastication demonstrated Rock Island Arsenal has the capability of fabricating all the seals in the kit according to the technical data.

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